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## Senator Pell Deserves Recognition

The government is now on the threshold of investigating the aborted invasion of Fidel Castro's Cuba to determine why and how the forces were wiped out even before they could make contact with anti-Castro groups on the island. The Central Intelligence Agency can probably be expected to bear the brunt of the criticism.

As things turned out, the attack of the invasion forces was badly timed and ill-advised. The anti-Castro sentiment on the island itself, upon which the invaders depended for support, was sadly lacking. There is now a question as to how much such sentiment there actually is in Cuba.

There is one voice that can speak with authority on the matter and it is that of Rhode Island's Sen. Claiborne Pell. Shortly after his election in November the then senator-elect made an unannounced and confidential survey in a trip to the Caribbean isle.

Later, he now reports, he made known to high officials of the administration that the time for action

against the Castro regime lay in the future. He went to Cuba for the sole purpose of testing the political atmosphere there and to find any signs of disillusion among the people both in the cities and in the fields.

As a former officer in the Foreign Service, Senator Pell had the ability to make such findings. He found the people "were not sullen or unhappy or dissatisfied." He found no great animosity toward Castro and so reported.

Possibly because he is a neophyte member of the upper chamber Mr. Pell's observations were not seriously considered as it now proves they should have been.

Because of his broad background in foreign affairs the administration would do well to take advantage of Mr. Pell's knowledge and experience. He is supporting the proposal that set up a special committee to examine the operations of the CIA on a continuing basis, noting that the move "is long overdue" and that "our sad experience in Cuba makes it more timely than ever."